

**The notion of prominence:**  
**Voice choice and coding of arguments in Katripulr Puyuma**  
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The voice system of the Philippine-type languages has continued to be of interest to linguists with either theoretical or typological orientation. While most debates have been centered on whether the alignment patterns in these languages should be best analyzed as an ergative system, an accusative system or a symmetrical one, there have been relatively fewer studies focusing on the motivations for the speakers to choose one voice over another. Two factors are regularly mentioned to be closely related to voice selection in the Philippine-type languages: the referential properties of arguments and aspect. For instance, Teng (2008:155) claims that in Nanwang Puyuma, the undergoer of an actor voice clause is indefinite and the undergoer of an undergoer voice clause is definite, and if there is a definite undergoer, it will be the subject of the clause and will induce a voice alternation. While this observation may hold true in most cases, there are situations where the referential properties of arguments and aspect alone are not enough to explain the speakers' voice choice. Latrouite (2011: 215) argues that the voice system of the Philippine-type languages is an outcome of the grammaticalization of a pragmatic prominence assignment system. She (2011:199-201) considers that voice selection and case marking are about prominence marking and that prominence can be evaluated on more than one level: (i) information-structural level in terms of focus and topic, (ii) referential level in terms of specificity and animacy, and (iii) event-structural level in terms of the importance of a participant for the predication expressed by the verb and the construal of the event. The current study is a corpus-based study and it departs from my earlier works (e.g. Teng 2008, 2018, 2020) by (i) providing empirical evidence from natural texts, rather than elicited data, and by (ii) reassessing the notion of prominence via a multi-level evaluation proposed by Latrouite (2011).